

Sagas of 2 A.P. War Correspondents Who Write Amid the Thunders of Far Eastern Conflict

By DON WHITEHEAD,
Wide World News.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—There's a bright flame of courage shining out of gloom of war's misery, destruction and death.

It's fed by MacArthur and his men battling the Japanese hordes in the foxholes of Bataan . . . it's in the little band of volunteer flyers sweeping the skies over Burma . . . It rides with the fleet which smashed enemy naval bases south-east of Pearl Harbor . . . and it flares in the dispatches of correspondents watching the convulsions of a world in conflict.

Webster defines courage as "that quality of mind which meets danger or opposition with intrepidity, calmness and firmness."

But whatever it is—it's found in the men who have told the story of ill-fated Warsaw, Dunkirk, France, Greece, Singapore and Bataan . . . men like quiet, scholarly C. Yates McDaniel, 35, and big Clark Lee, 35, Associated Press war correspondents.

These two, far different in background and temperament, have added new chapters of bizarre adventure by their own daring to this unfinished saga of journalism.

In Singapore's Last Hours.

It was the day before Lincoln's Birthday and slim, grave, prematurely gray C. Yates McDaniel sat in a Singapore hotel room to write a stirring footnote to history.

His hands were wet with nervous perspiration. The typewriter he pounded danced with the roar and crash of cannonading and bursting bombs.

McDaniel was the only American newspaperman left to witness the heroic last-ditch stand of Singapore's outmanned defenders. He had bid farewell to departing reporters the day before.

For days he had reported the steady advance of the enemy to the very outskirts of Singapore itself. He had seen smoke billow up from burning oil tanks, rubber plants, pineapple canneries and factories, fired to prevent the Japanese seizing them.

Now he sat in a hotel room and watched waves of Japanese planes pour a murderous fire from the sky on the defenders—with their only challenge from ground guns and two obsolete biplanes with a speed of about 100 miles an hour.

Rumination Amid Battle.

"It makes me rather ashamed of myself, sitting here with my heart beating faster than that of a soldier when I think what chance those lads have of getting back in their antiquated machines," he wrote. "If ever brave men earned undying glory, those R. A. F. pilots have on this tragic morning."

To friends of McDaniel, it seemed typical he should pause for reflection in the midst of this holocaust. "We always agreed," one said, "that Mac was the sort of guy who could sit in a building during an earthquake and write a story."

Perhaps McDaniel got some of his outward calm from the Chinese children with whom he played as a child in Szechwan, China, where his parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Charles C. McDaniel of Blackstone, Va., operated a Baptist mission until the recent Japanese occupation.

Like most missionaries' sons, Mac was sent to the United States for his college education. He obtained a bachelor's degree at the University of Richmond, Va. A classmate described him as "one of those versatile geniuses who never lets his studies interfere with his education."

Worked on Southern Papers.

Learning the rudiments of newspaper work on the Sarasota (Fla.) Morning Herald and the Durham (N. C.) Herald, McDaniel returned to China in 1924 to work for Shanghai papers. He joined the Associated Press in 1935.

Japanese bombers seemed to follow Yates wherever he traveled in China—or else he anticipated their moves.

At the outbreak of the Chinese-Japanese conflict he was in Tientsin when the bombers came. He rode a Chinese ambulance to Nanking for a rendezvous with the bombers. He watched them drop death on Canton and Hankow.

Usually, his wife—the former Miss Natalie Ellis of Boston and Los Angeles—stayed with him as much as possible. During Singapore's desperate stand, she was in Java. The bombers followed him to Singapore. Once as he was writing his story he ducked behind a wall, which screened the blast of bombs falling just outside the hotel.

Finally he tapped out the last paragraph:

"I am leaving now in a car which I swear I will put into forward gear and head straight into the Strait of Malacca. I left one car for the Japanese in Nanking in 1937, but never again. Don't expect to hear from me for many days . . ."

Writes from Bombed Vessel.

But the next day McDaniel fled still another story of the battle of Singapore—and added:

"Lying offshore, we were bombed incessantly until sundown yesterday and throughout today. We were dive-bombed half a dozen times, but



CLARK LEE.



C. YATES MCDANIEL.

we still are afloat and may get away tonight."

That was his final message. But he turned up later in Batavia.

Fifteen hundred miles northeast of Singapore in the wilds of Bataan Peninsula, another epic of heroism was—and is—being recorded by Clark Lee in the historic stand of Gen. MacArthur.

When Lee and his wife, the Hawaiian Princess, Liliuokalani Kawananakoa, set out for the United States last November from Shanghai on vacation, neither suspected that within a few weeks Clark would be caught up in a whirlwind of adventure such as few men ever experience.

Upon arriving at Manila November 23, Lee found a cable from John Evans, chief of the Associated Press and Wide World Foreign Service, telling him to remain there until further instructions. His wife continued her voyage.

Tension with Japan was increasing. Evans was getting his staff ready for any emergency, and there wasn't long to wait.

Japs Strike Pearl Harbor.

The Japs hit at Pearl Harbor, and two weeks later Lee cabled: "A flotilla of 80 enemy transports was sighted this morning off Lingayen Gulf . . . and the Army in announcing the hostile approach said there was no doubt this was the beginning of Japan's major drive on the Philippines."

That was the beginning, too, of Clark Lee's big story. Three days later he staggered into the A. P. office, mud-covered and weary, to write the first eye-witness account of enemy troops swarming from transports and wading through a hail of fire to shove the defenders slowly back by sheer weight of numbers.

To get the news Lee dodged Japanese troops and dive bombers in the mountains, burned his automobile to keep it from the Japs, waded rivers, barely missed being blown up by a land mine, almost fell over a precipice in the darkness and left a railroad station a few minutes before it was leveled by an enemy bomber.

When the Japanese closed in on Manila Lee left the flaming harbor in a small freighter on New Year eve to take refuge in the island fortress of Corregidor. There he sent the first dispatch received from any American newsmen in nine days.

It was the story of three Salinas, Calif., soldiers who had played dead

IN CHICAGO

IMMACULATE

is the manner in which the

rooms are kept at the

BELAIR HOTEL

which is served by

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2 CAR LINES

And means no waiting for trans-

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for 28 hours to escape the Japs and rejoin MacArthur's main forces.

Wouldn't Stay in Corregidor.

Lee could have remained in the safety of Corregidor, but he wanted to see for himself how the American forces were meeting the enemy. He boarded a Navy patrol vessel which threaded the mined Manila Bay and deposited him on Bataan while Japanese bombers pounded the airfields and artillery rained shells on Corregidor.

Overnight the Oakland, Calif., boy's life became an adventure with death, climaxing some 13 years of newspaper work begun when he was a senior at Rutgers and campus correspondent for several New York papers.

He joined the A. P. after graduation in 1928 and became chief of bureau at Mexico City in 1933. Three years later he was named chief of bureau at Honolulu.

Duty in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Shanghai led up to Bataan, where Lee has done his sightseeing to the whinge of artillery shells and the roar of dive bombers.

Once he wrote: "This is sniper territory and Nat Floyd, New York Times reporter, and I each promise to write the other's obituary if we're hit."

Floyd wants some biographical dope and I tell him bombastically just to write 'he died unafraid.' Floyd draws. 'Now you know I couldn't do that. Accuracy is the first rule of newspapering.'

Special Task in Hawaii

Given to Comdr. Berry

Comdr. Robert W. Berry, who Friday was relieved as assistant director of the Navy Department's Office of Public Relations, will depart by air tonight for a special assignment in Honolulu.

He will return to the Office of Public Relations before going on a tour of duty at sea later this spring. Capt. Leeland P. Lovette, successor to Comdr. Berry, was commander of a destroyer division at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked December 7. His flagship was among the three destroyers reported lost.

The paper that you waste—if you force the stores to wrap your packages—won't do Hitler any harm. Save paper and rap Hitler.

Fairchild Workers

Favored in Ruling

By the Associated Press.

Trial Examiner Josef L. Hektoen recommended yesterday to the Labor Board that the Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corp., Hagerstown, Md., cease interfering with organizing rights of its employees.

The examiner recommended also that the company cease discouraging membership in C. I. O.'s United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, a C. I. O. affiliate, or any other labor organization.

Kappa Sigma Chapter

At G. W. U. Will Mark

50th Year Tonight

President Marvin to Speak

At Dinner Alpha Eta

Notables Will Attend

President Cloyd Heck Marvin of

George Washington University will

address the golden anniversary din-

ner of the university's chapter of

Kappa Sigma Fraternity at 7:30

tonight at Hotel 2400 Sixteenth

street.

More than 100 of the 300 men initiated during the first 50 years of Alpha Eta Chapter are expected to attend the dinner, according to Richard Burrows, president.

Dean Elmer Louis Kayser, university marshal, will trace the development of fraternities at George Washington. Hamilton W. Baker of New York, past worthy grand master of the national organization, will discuss the future of the fraternity. John Daley, president of the Kappa Sigma House Corp., will preside.

Vince Gallagher is chairman of entertainment.

Alpha Eta Chapter was founded February 22, 1892, 23 years after the first chapter was organized at the University of Virginia. The fraternity was the second to be chartered at George Washington. More than 40,000 men belong to its 114 American and Canadian units.

Senator Austin, Republican, of Vermont, heads the list of alumni who will attend the dinner. Among those initiated here who will be guests are Roy Osgood, vice president of the First National Bank of Chicago; Thomas E. Lodge, chairman of the District Alcohol Beverage Control Board; Federal District Judge Arthur Gronna of Washington, N. Dak.; Kenneth Romney, sergeant at arms of the House; Cochran Fisher, Dr. Edgar P. Copeland and E. Barrett Prettymann, former District corporation counsel.

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